Two petitions—one from R. Narayana Pillai of Pathanamthitta, and the othe from some inhabitants of Chengannur—regarding the Registration Bill, were the reported to the Council, by whose direction the same were deferred for consideration along with the Select Committee's Report on the Bill.

Mr. Richardson, on behalf of the planters, thanked His Highness' Government for his appointment as a Member to represent the planting community. He also expressed his thankfulness for the honor conferred on him personally.

THE REVENUE RECOVERY REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I beg to apply for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Revenue Recovery Regulation, I of 1068.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ananda Row.—I also ask for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, Regulation V of 1067.

Permission was granted accordingly.

THE SALT BILL.

Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.—With the permission of the Council, which I have already obtained, I beg to introduce a draft Regulation to consolidate and amend the law relating to the improvement and expansion of salt manufacture and the efficient collection of salt revenue in Travancore.

As required by the rules, the Bill, in Vernacular and in English, has been published in the Gazette. As mentioned in my Statement of Objects and Reasons, it will, when passed into law, supersede Regulation VII of 1063 by which Section 38 of an earlier Regulation (I of 1010) was repealed, so far as it related to salt.

The history of salt in Travancore being pretty well known, there is no need to refer to details at any length. But as this is the first time that a Salt Bill comes before the Legislative Council, the old Regulation having been passed before the Council came into existence, a very brief survey may not be out of place.

In addition to the present sea-side factories or alloms, salt used to be manufactured in Travancore, on the margin of the backwaters in the Trivandrum, Ambalapuzha, Kartigapally and Karunagapally taluks, and the wants of the people thus supplied. In all these factories, the cultivation of salt was at that time free and unrestricted and subject to but one fiscal regulation—namely, that the salt produced should be divided between the Government and the ryot in the same manner as the paddy grown on rice lands.

From the report of the Madras Salt Commission, we find that in the Madras Presidency too, the salt produce was divided between the Government and the manufacturers according to customary rates which appear to have varied from 18 to 88 per cent. Beyond this liability to payment, the production or manufacture and distribution or sale, of salt were as in Travancore, both free and unrestricted.

Between the years 1805 and 1807, the Madras Government introduced the monopoly system throughout the Presidency. The main principle of the monopoly system is, to use the words of the Salt Commission, "expressed in its name; the sale of salt "except to Government is made illegal. But not only so; Government also reserves "to itself the power of opening salt pans, and the manufacture of salt except for sale "to Government is forbidden". Madras Regulation I of 1805, which is the law on which the monopoly is based, enacted in Section 4 that the shares to manufacturer and the hire to labourers were to be paid at the same rates as before, unless altered by mutual consent, but converted into money at the average selling price of salt a the pans, calculated on the five years preceding the date of the Regulation. I further provided for advances being made to the manufacturers to help and encourage production.

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